

AB 982 Public Advisory Group

Meeting Held March 3, 2000
State Water Resources Control Board Hearing Room

Meeting Summary

Convene Meeting: Co-Chair Beckman convened the meeting and declared a quorum.

February 11 Meeting Summary: The summary of the February 11, 2000 meeting was approved.

Revised Public Advisory Group Operating Procedures: The Public Advisory Group (PAG) made three additional changes to the operating procedures: (1) deleted the sentence regarding member compensation (Article III, section 3), (2) clarified the procedures on consensus (Article V, Section 1), and (3) clarified when members and alternates vote and when a proxy is appropriate (Article V, Section 2).

ACTION: The PAG adopted the revised operating procedures.

Unresolved Issue: The PAG discussed the videotaping of its meeting. Some members suggested that the taping prevented an open discussion of issues and that the taping could potentially be used in litigation, legislative or regulatory advocacy. Other members voiced the opinion that the PAG proceedings are public meetings and nothing prevents anyone from quoting members or taping the meeting. The Co-Chairs agreed to discuss ways to resolve the issue and report back to the PAG.

Compensation for PAG members: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff discussed their efforts to resolve the issue since the February 11, 2000 meeting. The topics discussed were: (1) SWRCB members support compensating low income PAG members; (2) staff discussed payment limitations including legal issues, contracting limitations, the appearance of a conflict, etc.; and (3) discussed the possibility of the SWRCB supporting a grant application to support low income PAG member participation.

Unresolved issue: Compensation for members that were not being supported to attend the meetings by their employer. Staff and Communities for a Better Environment will continue to work towards resolving the issue.

SWRCB's Approach for Addressing Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Issues: At the February 11, 2000 meeting the PAG asked that the Group begin addressing issues related to TMDLs as well as ambient monitoring. The PAG Co-Chairs developed initial lists of issues to be addressed. SWRCB staff assembled the lists for discussion at the

March 3, 2000 meeting. Each PAG member was given the opportunity to add issues or suggest revisions to the issues brought forward by the Co-Chairs. Several new issues were raised and are included in the March 23 and 24, 2000 meeting agenda package. Members of the PAG asked that the issues be presented in neutral terms.

Plan for Implementing a Comprehensive Program for Monitoring Ambient Surface and Groundwater Quality: SWRCB Staff presented the approach presented in the report to Legislature for developing a comprehensive surface water quality monitoring program, where ambient monitoring fits into the water quality regulatory process, and the features of a comprehensive monitoring program.

Many comments were received from the PAG members. The comments are listed in the agenda package for the March 23 and 24, 2000 meeting. SWRCB staff discussed the \$3.6 million proposed in the State budget and the statements in the Legislative Report that this level of funding is just the start of what might be requested.

Staff committed to move forward in developing the mandated monitoring proposal and to bring additional information before the PAG at its next meeting. The PAG agreed that materials supporting the meeting could be sent less than ten days before the meeting.

Adjourn: The PAG confirmed that its next meeting is on March 23-24, 2000.